

# *Report*

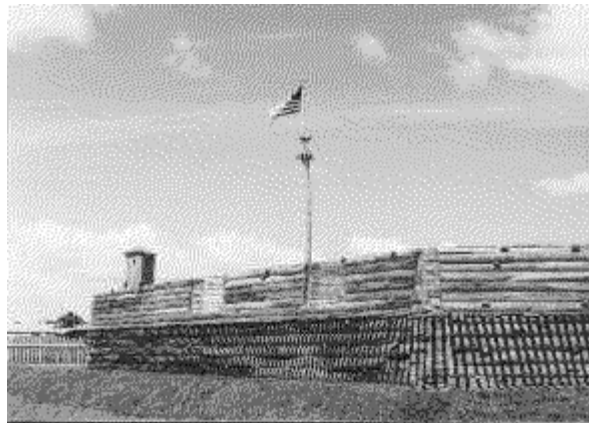
# Fort Stanwix National Monument

## ■ 1.0 Site Description

Fort Stanwix is located in downtown Rome, New York. The Fort dates to 1758 and has served many strategic purposes in protecting the inland waterways of the United States, bridging the waterways between the Atlantic Ocean and the Great Lakes. The events that occurred at the site included the development of European and later American-Indian affairs, the melding of diverse cultures, and the protection of the Mohawk Valley during two world wars: the French and Indian, and the American Revolutionary Wars.

Fort Stanwix is also a site where Americans developed their own sense of Indian Affairs. Several treaties were negotiated at the site, setting precedents for future Indian and American treaties and relationships.

### **Fort Stanwix National Monument**



As a site with a long history of relationships to transportation routes, there are a variety of access options. These include canals, rail lines, hiking trails, bicycle trails, bus routes, and traditional vehicular access. Most visitors travel by automobile, and this is supported by the availability of low-cost public parking both on-street and in structures.

## ■ 2.0 Existing ATS

The following Alternative Transportation Systems (ATS) services are available:

- Amtrak operates daily train service on the Empire Service, which operates between New York City and Buffalo. Three trains per day stop in Rome in each direction, in the early morning, midday, and in the late afternoon in the eastbound direction, and at midday, afternoon, and early evening in the westbound direction. Although the tracks are near the site, the Rome station is approximately one-quarter mile away.
- There is an extensive system of hiking and cycling trails along the canals in New York State. As such many hikers and cyclists travel through the area and visit the monument. This includes the Black River Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail.
- The Erie Canal is located approximately one-quarter mile to the south of the monument. The canal is becoming an increasingly popular waterway for recreational boating and as such, increased site visitation by boaters is anticipated.
- Local bus service is provided in Rome and limited intercity bus services are provided in Utica, approximately 15 miles to the east.

## ■ 3.0 ATS Needs

Given the array of multimodal means of accessing Fort Stanwix, a variety of enhancements may be warranted. One of these is a potential shuttle loop between the railroad station, the canal docks, and the site.

Planning and discussions are underway for a scenic railroad using historic rail cars that would link historic Erie Canal Village (the site where the original canal construction began) and downtown Rome. This line may also connect with the New York State Cheese Museum located on the western boundary of the city.

## ■ 4.0 Basis of ATS Needs

Given the myriad activities either currently taking place or planned that are intended to enhance area tourism and historic site visitation, the implementation of ATS enhancements would have some potential positive benefits. It is likely that the best way to pursue these potential enhancements would be in conjunction with state and local officials such that an alternative transportation service partnership could be formed.

## ■ 5.0 Persons Interviewed

Gary Warshefski, Fort Stanwix National Monument